

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~water treatment~~ apparatus employed in the water treatment method of claim 8, comprising:

storage means for storing water to be treated including ~~[[a]]~~ said pharmaceutical drug; ~~drug~~;

apply means for applying said water to be treated into said storage means; ~~and means~~;
~~addition means for adding into said water to be treated metal salt generating halide ions when dissolved in said water to be treated, and~~

energizing means for applying current to a pair of electrodes ~~immersed in~~ for electrolysis of said water to be treated ~~in said storage means~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The water treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apply means comprises an input valve through which the water to be treated flowing into said storage unit passes, and an output valve through which the water discharged from said storage means passes based on a signal level from liquid level sensing means sensing a liquid level of said water to be treated in said storage means, the apparatus further comprising:

liquid level sensing means for sensing a liquid level of said water to be treated in said storage means; and

control means for adjusting an amount of said water to be treated into said storage means by controlling an opening/closure of said inlet valve and said output valve based on the signal from said liquid level sensing means.

3. (Currently Amended) The water treatment apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein said storage means further comprising~~ comprises mixing means for mixing said water to be treated when said water to be treated is subjected to electrolysis.

4. (Currently Amended) The water treatment apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising separation means for separating ~~[[a]]~~ solid precipitates and sludge generated by

electrolysis of said pharmaceutical drug or a substance other than the pharmaceutical drug includes in said water to be treated from said pair of electrodes by removing solid precipitates and sludge from liquid in said storage means.

5. (Original) The water treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pair of electrodes is formed of a material including at least platinum.

6. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A water treatment method comprising:
applying water to be treated, including a pharmaceutical drug of at least one of a sterilant, anticancer drug, and antibiotic, into storage means storing water to be treated; and
applying current to a pair of electrodes for electrolysis of said water to be treated to decompose or alter at least a portion of a chemical structure of said pharmaceutical drug in said water to be treated applied into said storage means for eliminating or reducing at least one of a bactericidal action, disinfection, carcinogenicity, cytotoxicity, mutagenicity, teratogenicity, spermatotoxicity, and antibacterial activity of said pharmaceutical drug,
wherein said water to be treated includes halide ions ~~the step of decomposing or altering at least a portion of a chemical structure of a pharmaceutical drug in water to be treated through electrolysis to eliminate or reduce pharmacological activity of said pharmaceutical drug.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The water treatment method according to claim 8, further comprising: the steps of:

~~applying water to be treated including a pharmaceutical drug into a storage unit storing water to be treated,~~

~~adding into said water to be treated metal salt generating halide ions when dissolved in said water to be treated, treated, and~~

~~applying current for a predetermined period of time to a pair of electrodes immersed in the water to be treated in said storage unit.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The water treatment method according to claim [[9,]] 8, wherein said applying step comprises the step of ~~controlling~~ adjusting an amount of said water to be treated applied into said storage [[unit]] means by controlling opening/closure of an inlet valve through which the water to be treated flowing into said storage [[unit]] means passes and an output valve through which the water discharged from said storage [[unit]] means passes based on a signal from liquid level sensing means sensing a liquid level of said water to be treated in said storage means.

11. (Currently Amended) The water treatment method according to claim [[9,]] 8, further comprising the step of mixing said water to be treated when said water to be treated is subject to electrolysis ~~contents in said storage unit.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The water treatment method according to claim [[9,]] 8, further comprising the step of separating solid precipitates and sludge generated by electrolysis of said pharmaceutical drug or a substance other than the pharmaceutical drug included in said water to be treated from said pair of electrodes by removing solid precipitates and sludge from said storage means ~~a solid from liquid in said storage unit.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The water treatment method according to [[claim 9,]] 8, wherein said pair of electrodes is formed of a material including at least platinum.

14. (Currently Amended) The water treatment method according to claim [[9,]] 8, wherein said water to be treated includes waste fluid discharged from a facility handling said pharmaceutical drug.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The water treatment method according to claim 9, wherein said metal salt includes sodium chloride.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) The water treatment apparatus according to claim 1, comprising addition means for adding into said water to be treated metal salt that generates halide ions when dissolved in said water to be treated.

19. (New) A water treatment method, comprising:

applying water to be treated, including a pharmaceutical drug of at least one of a sterilant, anticancer drug, and antibiotic, into storage means storing water to be treated, wherein said applying step includes the step of adjusting an amount of said water to be treated applied to said storage means to maintain a liquid level in said storage means at a predetermined height by controlling opening/closure of an inlet valve through which the water to be treated flowing into said storage means passes and an output valve through which the water from said storage means passes based on a signal from liquid level sensing means sensing a liquid level of said water to be treated in said storage means; and

applying current to a pair of electrodes immersed in said water to be treated in said storage means for electrolysis of said water to be treated to decompose or alter at least a portion of a chemical structure of said pharmaceutical drug in said water to be treated applied into said storage means for eliminating or reducing pharmacological activity and/or toxicity of said pharmaceutical drug.

20. (New) A water treatment method comprising:

applying water to be treated, including a pharmaceutical drug of at least one of a sterilant, anticancer drug, and antibiotic, into storage means storing water to be treated;

applying current to a pair of electrodes immersed in said water to be treated in said storage means for electrolysis of said water to be treated to decompose or alter at least a portion of a chemical structure of said pharmaceutical drug in water to be treated applied into said storage means for eliminating or reducing pharmacological activity and/or toxicity of said pharmaceutical drug; and

separating solid precipitates and sludge generated by electrolysis of said pharmaceutical drug or a substance other than the pharmaceutical drug included in said water

to be treated from said pair of electrodes by removing solid precipitates and sludge from said storage means.

21. (New) A water treatment method comprising:

applying water to be treated, including a pharmaceutical drug of at least one of a sterilant, anticancer drug, and antibiotic, into storage means storing water to be treated; and

applying current to a pair of electrodes for electrolysis of said water to be treated to decompose or alter at least a portion of a chemical structure of said pharmaceutical drug in said water to be treated applied into said storage means for eliminating or reducing pharmacological activity and/or toxicity of said pharmaceutical drug.